

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman and Ranking Member,

I am requesting \$1,200,000 in funding for Teen Multipurpose Center in fiscal year 2023 through the Economic Development Initiative account.

The entity to receive funding for this project is One Gadsden Foundation, Inc. located at 26 Cascade Falls Way Havana, Florida 32333.

The funding would be used to acquire and rehabilitate a building for a Teen Multipurpose Center in Havana Florida. This center will be a social, educational, and recreational center intended primarily for use by Gadsden County children ages 11 to 18 years. In some cases, the center will be open to children ages 4-10, when special programs are in place to accommodate them. The Center will support opportunities for youth to develop their physical, social, emotional, and cognitive abilities to experience achievement, leadership, enjoyment, friendship, and recognition.

Gadsden County has a population of 45,787 and is the 43rd most populated county in the state of Florida. Additionally, it is the largest minority county in North Florida, bolstering at 67%. The median household income was \$41,135 in 2020; however, 15.2% of Gadsden County families live in poverty. This data supports the ongoing need for programs, such as a teen center, that will break generational poverty and prepare youth for the 21st Century. This center will offer organized instructional programs that promote the arts (dance, yoga, drawing, painting, music, graphic design, 2D/3D printing, etc.), STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), service, leadership, and health and fitness. Through the creation of education and career programs, teens will have the opportunity to gain experience in workplace readiness, college preparedness, scholarship assistance, career exploration, and more.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Al Lawson  
Member of Congress